

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 22 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS REPORT HAK SAYS THERE " SOME PROGRESS" IN PARIS TALKS. SULLIVAN- THACH CONTINUE LENGTHY TECHNICAL SESSIONS. NYT PARIS REPORTS HAK WILL RETURN WASHINGTON TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT NIXON BEFORE WEEK' S END. DIPLOMATIC INFORMANTS SAY THEY ENCOURAGED BECAUSE THO HAS NOT RENEWED COMMUNISTS' ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US BOMBING OF SVN AND PHOTO RECON PLANES OVER NVN. NYDN' S BELIEVES NEGOTIATORS CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON HOW AVERT C- F VIOLATIONS. CSM; S SCHMIDT SEES DOD REFUSAL TO DENY US RECON FLIGHTS OVER NVN AS EFFORT PRESSURE HANOI DURING PARIS TALKS. POST' S RANDAL REPORTS NVN NEWS AGENCY CHARGES THAT FOR SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS US PLANES FLEW RECON MISSIONS OVER NVN' S NAMHA AND THAI BINH PROVINCES SUNDAY.

2. POST' S LIPPMAN EXAMINES PROBLEMS CONFRONTING GEN. SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ IN MAKING FANK MILITARY FORCE CAPABLE OF TURNING BACK COMMUNISTS IN LIMITED TIME BELIEVED AVAILABLE. FOREIGN MILITARY ANALYSTS IN PP ARE DOUBTFUL, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THEY PREDICT THAT GENERAL' S FANK REORGANIZATION WILL INEVITABLY COLLIDE WITH VESTED INTERESTS OF HIGH- RANKING MILITARY CRONIES OF LON NOL. SOSTHENE' S REORGANIZATION DESIGNED ELIMINATE " PRIVATE

ARMIES" AND " WARLORDISM" THAT HAS SO SEVERELY HAMPERED FANK. BUT SOSTHENE' S PLANS APPEAR TO ASSUME CONTINUED US AIR SUPPORT, WITHOUT WHICH -- EVEN SOSTHENE REALIZES -- FANK WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE HOLD ON.

3. INFORMIN SUM CHHUM TELLS NEWSMEN GKR PREPARING FOR TALKS WITH KI BUT NO PEACE POSSIBLE UNTIL VN COMMUNISTS LEAVE CAMBODIA. SUM CHHUM ACKNOWLEDGES THERE CAN BE NO DIALOGUE UNTIL IDENTIFIABLE GROUP FROM OTHER SIDE MAKES ITSELF KNOWN. AP REPORTS LON NOL WILL GO TO US FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT SOON; BUT DOS SPOKESMAN SAYS US HAS NO INFORMATION (WP, NYDN).

4. ICCS SOURCES SAY VC HAVE AGREED WIDEN SAFETY UNCLASSIFIED

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CORRIDOR FROM SAIGON TO LOC NINH AND XA MAT FROM 3.5 TO 5 MILES TO PERMIT ICCS INVESTIGATING TEAM ACCESS TO SITE OF ALLEGED US BOMBING OF SVN NEAR KHMER BORDER (WP).

5. WP, NYT AND NYDN PUBLISH FULL- PAGE ADS BY VIVA (VOICES IN VITAL AMERICA) URGING AMERICANS MOBILIZE

ON BEHALF OF MIA IN LAOS. IN BANGKOK, GEN. ROBERT C. KINGSTON, HEAD US JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER, SAYS THERE NO INDICATION ANY AMERICANS LISTED MIA IN SEA STILL ALIVE. IN CASUALTY OPS IN NVN THUS FAR, KINGSTON SAYS NVN HAS BEEN " EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE." US HASN' T YET ASKED VC FOR CASUALTY OPS IN VC- CONTROLLED TERRITORY (NYT, CSM, NYDN).

6. AP SAIGON REPORTS (SUN) US SOURCE SAYS NVN BUILDING 150- MILE ROAD NETWORK FROM ASHAU VALLEY TO BINH DINH PROVINCE. INTENT NOT CLEAR, BUT NO PRESENT SIGNS OF IMMINENT MILITARY OFFENSIVE.

AP SAIGON INTERVIEWS (PH INQ) OUTSPOKEN, US- EDUCATED, ANTI- THIEU, MADAM NGU- PROTEGE SEN. (PAULINE) THOWHO SAYS, " BEING SOUTH VIETNAMESE, I HAVE TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH I DON' T WANT TO DEFEND CORRUPT PEOPLE. . . . WE HAVE A LOT OF POLITICIANS WHO CAN RUIN THE WORLD."

7. AFP' S JEAN VINCENT, IN HANOI, REPORTS PEOPLE THERE SEEM TO BELIEVE IN THE PEACE BECAUSE MANY OF AA BATTERIES PREVIOUSLY ON ROOFTOPS HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED AND THERE FEWER SOLDIERS ABOUT. BUT DRV HAS TAKEN STEPS THROUGH

" THREE READIES" PROGRAM TO PREVENT POPULATION FROM BECOMING DEMOBILIZED PSYCHOLOGICALLY (PHINQ).

8. CITING THIEU' S EIGHT- YEAR PLAN, SUN SUSPECTS THAT VISION OF 9 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE BY END OF DECADE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MORE POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC. RVN HAS ENORMOUS TASK IN TRYING TO IMPOSE
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AUSTERITY ON POPULATION WHOSE TASTES DISTORTED BY FLEETING, UNREAL PROSPERITY OF US DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. NOT INCONCEIVABLE FOR SVN TO ATTAIN HIGH GROWTH RA
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